

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for intercepting telephone calls on a telephone channel connected to a telephone includes a ring detector, that is in communication with the telephone channel. The ring detector is capable of detecting an incoming telephone call and generates a ring signal upon detection of an incoming telephone call. A user input receives an input from a user indicating that the user desires not to be called. A counter, that is responsive to the user input, is programmed to count a selected amount of time from assertion of the user input. A delay circuit, that is responsive to the counter, the ring signal and the user input, is programmed to allow the telephone to ring if an incoming call has been detected and if more than the selected amount of time has passed since the user input was last asserted. The delay circuit is also programmed to prevent the telephone from ringing if an incoming call has been detected and if less than the selected amount of time has passed since the user input was last asserted.

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